

## **Hope For Healing. Org**    **What is Date Rape?**

According to [Dictionary.Com](#) date rape is "Rape perpetrated by the victim's social escort." Survivors know it as a major crime against women in this country. Its victims are much more likely to know (and trust) the perpetrator involved. [The majority of victims are between 15 to 25 years old.](#)

The effects are long term and can leave a victim's life ripped apart. [Post Traumatic Stress Disorder](#) is a common problem for rape survivors.

**The crime effects not only the primary victim, but spreads to include significant others, friends and can even impact distant family members. The devastation for the victim can be far reaching and the conviction rate is poor because only 5% of date rapes are ever reported**

**There are many situations where perpetrators don't feel their behavior has broken the law, but according to the victim, the story is different.**

**Ideas like:** She really wanted it. Girls say no when they really mean yes. She wouldn't have gone out if she hadn't intended to have sex. I deserved something for buying the dinner, flowers or movie. She knew she wanted it but just didn't want to admit it. -- These are ALL misconceptions about rape.

**When a woman says no, the answer is No. By going out on a date a woman is not automatically agreeing to have sex no matter how much money was spent. Sex is not something owed in return for going on a date.**

**One of the most common questions people ask me is, "If we've had sex before and I told him no and tried to fight him but he ended up getting his way is it really rape?" Those types of situations can be emotionally difficult to sort out. The victim in this case feels violated. The perpetrator feels like nothing happened that was wrong, [caring very little for the feelings of the victim.](#)**

**Date rapes are the most common type of rape committed. It tends to be very devastating because the victim has been harmed by someone she previously trusted. Victims have to learn to trust people all over again. This is not an easily accomplished feat.**

**Drugs such as [Rohypnol](#) are being used more widely. Very often, the victim will not remember a crime being committed but will only have a vague awareness of something happening.**

**Most people think of rapes as being done by someone jumping out from behind a bush and overpowering a victim. That is not usually the case. Approximately 42% of the rapes that happen are [date rapes](#) where the perpetrator is known to the victim.**

**There is hope. Education may be the key to curbing this occurrence. Men need to learn that when a woman says no. The answer is no. It's not, maybe. It's not, later. It's no.**

**Women need to know that it's all right to say no, to mean it, and that having agreed to have sex with this person in the past does not give that person an automatic right to thier body. If a woman says no. It should be taken and meant as a no because that's what it is. No!**

**To see the full article and credits please go to [Healing News November 1997](#)**